+ + + "READY TO SERVE" + + +

"Father God, help us not to be like porridge — slow to boil and hard to stir.

"Help us to be more like cornflakes, always prepared and ready to serve."

Above is the unconventional, yet relevant prayer of our five second year Students. By the time you read this they will have left the Training College, for a holiday time before starting their first appointments in February. (William Just is training for the New Zealand Church Army and will return there in early December). The five wrote the following article a few weeks before leaving College.

As a small group, through many hours of discussing and sharing, we (Lyn, Chris, Trevor, William and John) have come, as a corporate body, to write the following — remembering some of our experiences of the past two years in College and in the field.

Firstly, we would like to thank all our brothers and sisters in Christ who have given us their valued prayer support and also financial assistance.

WILLIAM JUST

CHRISTOPHER THIELE

Now to begin :

Last year we became a close knit community, which we find was an amazing plan of God. Amazing, because we all came from a variety of backgrounds :

horticultural worker
postman
salesman
factory worker
bank clerk

Yet in such a short time we were brought together under the common bond of God's uniting power.

This year we have continued to build up the community, to a point where our ministry to each other has really been effective.

With the hope of acquiring some knowledge and skills, and an acceptance of our new surroundings, we began learning. With this learning, from both theoretical and practical experience, we have realized how insignificant one really is in the world. How finite one's mind is, for there are a never ending number of things to learn in such a short time. To be able to apply that learning to life is most important we feel, especially in the field of Evangelism.

LYN BULLARD

The world at College is in a realm of its own. We were led by God from the secular world and placed into this one of intense learning, and, hopefully, maturity, both in the Christian life and our own individual personhood. Within this small community there is a life of sharing and caring, although at times we do have our "ups" and "downs" which is only natural.

It is important to realise, we were not by any means cut off from the outside world, for in fact a third of our education was conducted outside the College grounds. We have found this to be of immense benefit; to have the opportunity of going out and then coming back to College. Sharing the problems, the barriers, the frustrations and also the joys of our ministry has been a great encouragement to us all.

With the adapting to studying and living in a small community, a whole new world opened up before us. One that was to prepare and help us learn to be effective communicators of the Gospel in the world in which we live.

JOHN HARDING

TREVOR BROOKS

Some of the activities we have participated in either corporately or individually during our course have been :

Missions, Camps, conducting services, preaching, hotel visitation, deputation work, counselling, personal witnessing and religious instruction in schools.

Our practival work has taken us to a variety of Parishes, in which, as individuals, different areas of our lives have seen growth take place.

In our second year we have had greater opportunities of gaining more practical experience in the areas mentioned previously.

One of the highlights during the past twelve months was not so much the theory, even though we have learnt a great deal from our lectures. The height in our training we feel was the integration of practical work with theoretical studies, especially being able to participate in the Disabled Children's Camp at Springwood in May.

In Trevor's words —

"The most impressive reaction I have from the camp is the natural way in which counsellor and camper could share what Jesus meant to them in general conversation."

We believe this to be a most effective means of communicating God's message. To hear of the activity of God in a camper's life through a mother's letter following camp, is most encouraging.

1977 will see the five of us "launched out" into the world, with the goal of allowing God, through His Spirit to participate in the work to which He has called us on a full-time basis.

Over the past two years, we, as a group, have had two different experiences in training, through the guidance of Captain Frank Clarke and the Rev. Graeme McRobb. Through these two men, we have been made aware of two different approaches in evangelism, which we believe have been of great benefit to us and will prove invaluable in our ministries.

We "Praise the Lord" that we are able to participate in relaying to other people God's message and to be able to accept the commission of an evangelist.

As Paul so aptly says of our call —

"Do the work of an evangelist. Fully perform all the duties of your ministry."

2 Timothy 4:5b
(The Amplified Bible).

"Father God, we pray that we may be made aware of Your presence in all we do;
Aware of what You would have to say to us — through Your Word;
That we may be awake — ready to do what You want.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen."

FEDERAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

". . . we are not pre-occupied with the difficulty of the task but with the greatness of the Lord to achieve His purpose here . . ."

This, I think, typifies the attitude and spirit of Church Army Evangelists as they continue faithfully to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in a great variety of circumstances.

THE BOARD : In addition to the six ordinary meetings, three special meetings were also held. During the year six members resigned and the following new members were elected — the Rev. B. Bevis, the Rev. J. Henderson, Mr. K. Alexander and Miss P. Byron. From the June 1975 Meeting until the Annual General Meeting in January, 1976, Mr. Boyt served as Chairman. After the Annual Meeting, Canon Gray was elected as Chairman.

PERSONNEL & ACTIVITIES : There were 27 active Officers at the beginning of the year and during the year one returned to the English Society on completion of his term here, one retired, one new Officer was commissioned and the new Warden was appointed. We therefore finished the year with the same active strength of 27.

A link with the Society's early days was severed with the death last November of **Captain Cecil Fisk,** who was commissioned in 1937 and retired in 1967.

The work of our Officers in their varied spheres was appreciated and good reports were received of the effectiveness of their efforts. Two Officers were granted leave of absence, one for twelve months and the other for two years. In the latter case, **Sister Rilatt** is spending the time in England where she is working with the Church Army at their Counselling Centre in London and undertaking a course in counselling with the Richmond Fellowship.

New appointments of special interest were :— **Captain Tobin** to the Diocese of N.W. Australia where he is serving in the Port Hedland Parish and is based at South Hedland and **Captain Wallis** went as Student Counsellor to the Institute of Advanced Education in Rockhampton for twelve months. By contrast he also serves part-time as a supervisor in a Therapeutic Activity Centre for Sub-Normal Adults. **Captain Quayle** who has served for many years as an Industrial Evangelist with the Inter-Church Trade & Industry Mission, was appointed a full-time Staff Member.

Captain Cullen, who is Parish Evangelist at Forbes, obtained his unrestricted private pilot's licence. As he is confident that he should use his flying skills in his work as an evangelist, this raises interesting thoughts for the development of future Church Army work.

Great progress was made with the outreach ministry to 'Alternate Culture' groups in northern N.S.W. through the work of "The Buttery" led by **Captain McKnight.** During the year the Buttery Committee received a Government Community Health Grant of $10,230. The following facts give some indication of the extent of this work :— 3728 guests stayed at The Buttery for varying periods, whilst approximately 4000 other people visited the Centre.

TRAINING COLLEGE : Major changes took place in the work of the College with the appointment last January of full-time Warden, **the Rev. Graeme MacRobb,** and the retirement from office of the **Rev. David Livingstone,** who had served for 13 years as Honorary Warden. Our special thanks are due to Mr. Livingstone who continued to serve as a lecturer and also as Chairman of the Training College Committee.

Some re-arrangement of the syllabus took place and also each student now works to a 'work contract' which is reviewed every three months. Use was again made of external courses and the usual practical work activities were maintained.

For the teaching work of the College, the Society was again indebted to the honorary lecturers for some Th.A. and other subjects. The College received the very generous gift of a new overhead projector which was greatly appreciated.

Buildings — The staff cottage was enlarged and improved for the use of the Warden and his family at a cost of some $14,000. Grants were received from the "Walter & Eliza Hall" Trust to

News & Notes

APOLOGY : In the last issue, an announcement about "A Service of Admitting and Commissioning" was included, and a mistake (on the part of the Editor) occurred.

One paragraph should have read :—

"The new Church Army Officers will be : Lyn Bullard, Trevor Brooks, John Harding and Chris Thiele. Please uphold them in prayer."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & RALLY : A happy time was spent at St. Mark's South Hurstville on Friday, 5th November, when our Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with a Rally. Combining the two activities was an experiment, and may not necessarily be repeated. However, we are making plans for some more regional rallies in the Sydney area, in the future. More about those later on.

RIVERWOOD FETE : Unknown to most of you, another Fete was held at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Riverwood, in Sydney, during September. The Fete had been planned for some time, but a specific date was not fixed until late — not enough time to tell you about it in "The Pioneer."

However, you will be pleased to know that $421.81 was the Church Army's portion of the proceeds. Our thanks go to all who helped towards the day, and especially to our faithful supporters at Riverwood, who worked so hard to stock the stalls and in the mundane task of cleaning up afterwards.

TRIP OVERSEAS : As you probably know, Captain Neil Payne has been the Manager of our Bookshop in Newcastle for a number of years. More recently, he has had the oversight of the Shops at Grafton and Gosford as well. We believe that books are a worthwhile ministry, which needs expanding even more.

Therefore, when the opportunity of attending a Booksellers' Conference in England came up, the Board was more than happy that Captain Payne should attend. The Conference is in January, and he leaves Australia on Boxing Day, visiting publishers and booksellers in the U.S.A. en route.

We are confident that the information, ideas and experience gained by Captain Payne, will be valuable in making the present Book Ministry even more effective and in planning more expansion for the future.

BETHLEHEM FOR CHRISTMAS

Bethlehem for Christmas

At this time of the year, many people will hear or read about the first Christmas nearly 2,000 years ago. But to a group of 35 children and 10 adults from Green Valley, near Sydney, Bethlehem will mean far more this year.

The children belong to the Green Valley Children's Choir, and have been invited by the Israeli Government Tourist Office to sing in Manger Square on Christmas Eve. About 7 other choirs will be there too. Excitement is bound to be high as the children experience the thrill of being in the Holy Land, as well as the novelty of different customs and cultures. No doubt this will all have an important impact on them and be an inspiration to them as they continue to present the Gospel in music in the future.

Among the adults will be the Rector of St. Mark's Green Valley, the Rev. John Livingstone, and Captain Rex Harris, originator of the Choir.

The Choir will tour Israel for 10 days and return home via Hong Kong.

THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

P.O. Box 107, French's Forest, N.S.W. 2086

Patrons : The Archbishops and Bishops of Australia.

President : The Most Rev. Sir Frank Woods, K.B.E., D.D.

Executive Board : The Rev. Canon R. F. Gray (Chairman), Mr. R. H. Boyt, Mr. D. Coburn, The Rev. J. N. Falkingham, Miss P. Byron, The Rev. D. G. Livingstone, Mr. R. Manuell, Mr. K. Alexander, Mr. G. Seton, The Rev. K. R. Le'Huray, The Rev. J. R. Henderson, The Rev. B. J. Bevis, Mr. K. Llewellyn (Hon. Treasurer).

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Editor : Sister P. A. Free, C.A.

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Manager : Captain N. A. R. Payne, C.A.

THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY :

The Church Army was founded in England in 1882 by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Belize, Cyprus, West Pakistan and Italy.

EDITORIAL . . .

Prayer is an integral part of our ministry and at the Federal Office we begin each day with a short devotional reading and a time of prayer — for the work of the Society, and for people known to us who are sick or have other needs. The following reading meant a lot to us recently, because it speaks of God's love and acceptance of people, and the potential of the person whose life is committed to Christ:—

". . . unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever." (Revelation 1:5,6).

Who are those that dwell in Heaven forever and ever ? Sinners saved by grace ! There is not a man or woman there who was not a sinner.

I stand upon the golden streets, I walk amid the brightness of the city; I hear a man singing, and I say to him, "And what were you on earth ?" He answers, "I am the thief who died by the side of Christ. I said, 'Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom,' and He said, 'This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise,' and I have been here ever since."

I pass on and I say to another, "Who are you with the light upon your brow ?" She answers : "I am the one who broke the alabaster box of ointment over the Saviour's feet; I washed his feet with tears and wiped them with the hairs of my head; and now He has wiped all my tears and I am happy in His presence."

"And who are you so radiant with happiness ?" To which I receive the reply, "I am the man who had ten legions of devils; Jesus cast them out and healed me; and now I am praising Him forever."

Yes, these are the inhabitants of this Glorious City. It may be that when we get to glory and stand amid the redeemed, worshipping, we shall hear one saying, pointing to Jesus, "Do you see those marks upon His blessed brow ? Those scars ? It was I who plaited the crown of thorns and pressed it on His brow."

But why should not these sinners be in glory ? The blood of Christ availed as much for them as for you and me. I should not be surprised, such is

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

MISSION INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMES TO UPHOLD IN PRAYER

In the past year Church Army Missioners have been in demand for a variety of Parish Missions and other special activities.

Federal Secretary : With College Principal and Students at Riverwood, N.S.W., for an extensive Mission in April.
"Mini Mission" at —
Erskineville (Diocese of Sydney)

College Principal : Parish Missions at —
Redhead (Diocese of Newcastle)
The Oaks (Diocese of Sydney)
"Mission Workshops" at —
Lang Lang (Diocese of Gippsland)
Mayfield (Diocese of Newcastle)
"Parish Life Mission" at Hornsby (Diocese of Sydney)
"Leadership Development and Resources" Weekend — for the Diocese of Grafton.

Students : Children's Missions at —
Lang Lang and Kooweerup (Diocese of Gippsland)
Oakdale (Diocese of Sydney)

Sister Free : Director of Camp for —
Disabled Children at Springwood (Diocese of Sydney)
Assisted in "Mission Workshop" at Mayfield (Diocese of Newcastle)

Missioners have also provided special programmes for Parish Weekends, Camps and Conferences for a number of Parishes.

1977 promises to be equally as busy for our team of Missioners. Present bookings include:

Federal Secretary : Missions at —
Mirboo North (Diocese of Gippsland)
Warilla (Diocese of Sydney)

Sister Free and the College Principal :
Co-Missioners at Crookwell (Diocese of Canberra—Goulburn) with Students as well.

Principal : Missions at —
Belmont (Diocese of Newcastle)
Yarram (Diocese of Gippsland)
Co-Missioner with Captain Dewdney (Director of the New Zealand Church Army) at —
Kambah (Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn)

Second Year Student, Wendy Woods :
Will assist Bishop Davies (of Tasmania) in a Mission at —
St. Paul's Cathedral, Sale (Diocese of Gippsland).

A PRAYER FOR CHURCH ARMY OFFICERS :

Grant, O God, to the Officers of the Church Army
the Faith which sees the Cross and knows that all men may be redeemed;
the Hope which sees the empty tomb and knows that good must triumph over evil;
the Love which sees Jesus and knows that in Him alone the hearts of men can be fully satisfied;
For His Name's sake. Amen.

SOME PLANS TO PRAY ABOUT

Extra Staff Officer — The need to increase the team at Federal Office is overdue and therefore tentative plans are in hand for the appointment of a Captain as Staff Officer for men as from early in 1977. This presents the challenge of finding the accommodation and extra finance necessary for such an appointment.

New Work — The Society needs to initiate new work in fulfilment of its evangelistic mission in the Church. To do so requires faith and the willingness to venture all in the cause of the Gospel. There is the possibility of a flying ministry already mentioned. But what else is God leading us to undertake ?

Recruitment — The Society is not growing numerically yet the need for evangelism never diminishes. We need to share a vision of achieving and maintaining a strength of 50 Officers within the next few years.

Faith & Prayer — All the above are linked together and the key is our faithfulness and prayerfulness as a Society. As we are more faithful and prayerful so God will be able to reveal to us and accomplish through us more of His purposes of love. A verse of Scripture that comes to mind is Eph. 1:19 ". . . and what is the immeasureable greatness of His power in us who believe . . ."